

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6867

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11077

EXDIS

FOR SSM DIR KONTOS FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, EG, IS
SUBJ: UNEF

1. AS YOU KNOW, THE SWEDISH, FINNISH AND AUSTRALIAN AMBS SPEND A DAY AT SFM LAT LAST MONTH. THEY ARRIVED A FEW DAYS AFTER NICK'S DEPARTURE. THEY WERE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THE HOSPITALITY EXTENDED THEM, BUT ALSO SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK BY WHAT I GATHER WAS RATHER STRONG CRITICISM OF UNEF OPERATIONS MADE IN THE COURSE OF THE SFM BRIEFING. I KNOW THAT NICK THORNE AND HIS TEAM HAVE FELT THAT UNEF WAS NOT AS VIGILANT AS IT SHOULD BE AND THAT SIILASVUO MAY AT TIMES BE A BIT LAX IN IDENTIFY-ING VIOLATIONS.

2. SIILASVUO HAS BECOME AWARE OF THIS BRIEFING AND MENTIONED MATTER TO POLCOUNSELOR SEVERAL EVENINGS AGO. DO NOT KNOW HOW, BUT I ASSUME IT IS THROUGH THE FINNISH AMB, WHHO IS A CLOSE FRIEND. IT MIGHT, OF COURSE, HAVE COME THROUGH ANY OF THE AMBS, EACH OF WHOSE COUNTRIES HAS A CONTINGENT IN UNEF. SIILASVUO PARTICULARLY OBJECTED TO FACT THAT CRITICISM OF UNEF WERE NOT MENTIONED TO HIM DIRECTLY, AT LEAST IN FIRST INSTANCE. SINCE NICK THORNE IS LEAVING, HE DID NOT WISH RAISE MATTER WITH HIM, BUT WISHED ME TO KNOW OF THIS CONCERN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 11077 050941Z

3. WHILE CRITICISM OF UNEF AND SIILASVUO MAY SOMETIMES BE DESERVED, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN OUR INTERESTS TO KEEP SUCH CRITICISM WITHIN OUR OWN OFFICIAL FAMILY. IT IS A MIS-TAKE TO CONVEY SUCH VIEWS TO FOREIGN AMBS OR OTHERS AND ES-PECIALLY TO THOSE WHO REPRESENT COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE CONTRI-BUTED CONTINGENTS. GIVING SIILASVUO THE IMPRESSION THAT SFM

IS CRITICAL OF HIM AND HIS OPERATION IS HARDLY CONDUCIVE TO THE KIND OF CONTINUING COOPERATION THAT WE NEED. I HAVE ALREADY HAD SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT SIILASVUO HAS OF LATE NOT BEEN AS FORTHCOMING WITH NICK THORNE AS HE WAS IN THE PAST.

4. IF NOT ALREADY ONE, YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SENDING AN INSTRUCTION TO SFM ON ITS DEALINGS WITH UNEF AND THE NEED TO AVOID CRITICISM OF UNEF OPERATIONS INTALKS WITH FOREIGN AMBS, EGYPTIANS, ISRAELIS AND OTHERS. ANY CRITICISM BELIEVED TO BE JUSTIFIED OUGHT TO BE RESERVED FOR OFFICIAL USG CHANNELS. I INTEND TO MENTIONED THE MATTER TO RAY HUNT WHEN HE ARRIVES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
EILTS

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